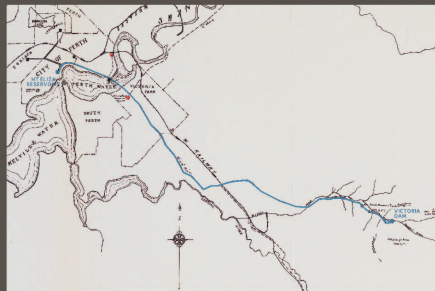


Perth's first public water supply scheme

Near this sign was the site of the first water storage reservoir for Perth. It was built in 1891 as part of the city's first public water supply scheme and could hold 3 million litres.

Water came from the newly built Victoria Dam (capacity: 1 billion litres) on Munday Brook in the hills at Carmel via a 26 kilometre long, 305 mm diameter pipeline. The scheme was designed

by engineers Henry Saunders and James Barratt, and constructed under a 'build, own and operate' agreement between Perth City Council and the contractors, Neil McNeil and Company of Melbourne.

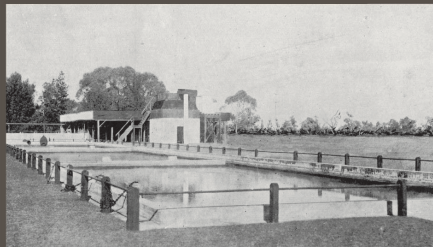


Drawing of pipeline route from Victoria Dam to Mt Eliza, pipeline shown in blue (Part of 1903 Plan M.S. & W.S. 299).



Henry Saunders

The dam's water storage area of 16 hectares was cleared by manual labour. Concrete for the dam wall, with a crest length of 220 metres and a maximum height of 22 metres, was mixed and put in place by workmen using shovels and hand rammers.



The original service reservoir, Mt Eliza, Kings Park.



Mrs Lilla Keane, wife of Perth Lord Mayor Edward Keane, officially opens the "Perth waterworks" by turning on a valve at Victoria Reservoir, 1 October 1891.



The original 12-inch main and subsequent 21-inch main pipelines from Victoria Reservoir cross the Swan River at the Causeway bridge.

The original storage reservoir on this site was demolished in the 1930s to make way for much larger storages over the years. In 1990 the original Victoria Dam wall was partly demolished to allow for overflows from a larger dam built 300 metres upstream.

The scheme was the forerunner of the Canning Dam and other hills schemes that helped make Perth the thriving city that it is today.



Victoria Reservoir, completed 1891.

The engineering significance of Perth's First Public Water Supply Scheme was recognised by the award of an Engineering Heritage Marker by Engineering Heritage Australia (the heritage arm of Engineers Australia) in October 2012.

